



Brick chips are piled up on one side of the road beside Dhaka Shishu Hospital as development work goes on. As a result, vehicles pass from both directions on the other side of the road, resulting in traffic congestion, much to the dismay of patients and their attendees. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Shock turns into rage DU students demand safe roads, campus; ex-university teacher arrested over woman's death

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) students were shocked yesterday after a car, driven by a former teacher of their institution, rammied a bike carrying Rubina Akhter, who then fell and got stuck under the car's wheels and was dragged along the road for a kilometre, leading to her death.

Onlookers kept screaming for the driver to stop but the vehicle kept moving.

As time passed, the shock was replaced with rage, and scores of DU students took to the streets to demand safer roads and a secure campus.

Meanwhile, former DU assistant professor Azhar Jafar Shah was arrested yesterday, after the victim's brother Zakir Hossain filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station.

He is being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, under police custody, for injuries he suffered when students and pedestrians assaulted him after stopping the car.

As part of their protest, the students pressed forward a three-point demand, which includes installing checkpoints at the university's entry points to control

entrance of outsiders and restrict movement of heavy vehicles on the campus.

They also held a sit-in programme for the second consecutive day in front of the residence of DU Vice Chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman around 4:00pm.

Speaking in a rally in front of the VC's residence, Sheikh Tasnim Afroz Emi, former vice president of Shamsunnahar Hall students' union, said, "We submitted a memorandum to the VC yesterday after holding a sit-in protest in front of his house."

"The VC assured us that he will implement the demands. Now, we are waiting. If the authorities do not implement our demands, we will start our protest again," said Emi.

Besides, a section of Nirapad Sarak Chai, Dhaka University unit, yesterday held a protest rally over the woman's death.

At the rally held near Raju Memorial around 11:00am, they demanded a safe campus and exemplary punishment for Azhar Jafar Shah.

Rifat Jahan Shaon, convener of the organisation's DU unit, said, "We feel



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No accountability unless polls are fair Says Prof Rehman Sobhan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If the authority wants to continue performing its duties, it must do so by following the democratic process. Those contesting in elections will have to do so in a free and fair manner, without spending crores and using muscle power, said Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue, yesterday.

"If they [authorities] are pressed to come to power through a contest, they will know that they will not get votes if people's problems are not resolved during their five-year tenure," Rehman said.

The CPD chairman said, "If they are not concerned about votes and think that they will resolve problems using money and arms, then there will be no accountability."

He said this while presiding over the "Public Hearing: National Development and Local Realities", organised as part of various initiatives of Citizen's Platform for SDGs.

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PROF REHMAN SOBHAN
Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue

The programme was held at the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

Around 35 men and women from different parts of the country, most of whom are from marginalised communities, raised their voices at the public hearing on various problems they are facing daily.

Rehman said, "It cannot be denied that a lot of development works have been done in recent years... But there is a disparity between marginalised people's claims of struggling to get government services and what the minister [Tazul Islam] is saying in response."

Rehman, also director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said the problems raised yesterday by the marginalised groups have been in place for years. "But why haven't these problems been resolved yet?"

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Mystery still shrouds Fardin's death

DB considering possibilities of accident, suicide

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Failing to get any evidence of murder during the month-long investigation, Detective Brach of police is now also looking into whether Buet student Fardin Noor Parash was killed in an accident, or whether he committed suicide.

"In the last one month, we did not get any evidence of his [Fardin] murder. So now we are looking into whether any accident caused his death, or whether he died by suicide," Rajib Al Masud, deputy commissioner of DB (Motijheel) told The Daily Star on Friday night.

He, however, said they are still not ruling out the possibility that the Buet student was murdered. "We are still conducting the investigation keeping all possibilities in mind," Masud said.

Fardin's father Kazi Nooruddin, however, said that his son could not have committed suicide.

"Fardin saw ups and downs in the family and tackled every situation head on. He is a fighter. A boy like him can never do something like that," he said.

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Fardin's death stirred huge outrage and demand for vengeance on social media.

Asked about the deceased's autopsy report, which said injury marks were found in the body and pointed to murder, the DB official said they are now taking opinions from forensic experts to know whether it is possible to detect injury marks on a body that had been decomposing for three days.

After a board of three physicians of Narayanganj General Hospital conducted an autopsy, a doctor said Fardin had injury marks on his head and other body parts.

"The actual cause of death can be ascertained after receiving the viscera report, but it is certain that he was a victim of murder," the

doctor told media on November 7.

DC Rajib Al Masud said the autopsy report of Awami League leader Duronto Biplob had also said that he was murdered as doctors found injuries. But investigators finally found that he drowned after a boat accident.

Duronto's body was found floating in Buriganga river, near Pagla, on November 10. The back of his head had been bashed in, and there were several injury marks on his chest. Later, doctors at Narayanganj General Hospital conducted an autopsy on the body.

Khandaker Al Moin, legal and media wing director of Rab, said they are yet to get any concrete evidence about Fardin's death.

The law enforcers are still analysing the information they have gathered to crack the mystery, he told The Daily Star on Friday night.

Asked about Rab's earlier claim that Fardin might have been killed in Narayanganj's Chonpara by local drug dealer Raihan Mahmud and his gang members, the Rab director said based on information collected through digital technology, they had made the statement.

"Mobile towers usually cover a radius of five to six kilometres. So, we had said that Fardin was last located somewhere near Chonpara. Raihan and his gang members came under radar because they are involved in keeping people hostage for money among other crimes," he added.

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VIOLENCE IN MYANMAR Influx of people taking risks to cross Andaman sea

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN has issued an alert over the dramatic increase in the number of people trying to cross the Andaman Sea from Bangladesh and Myanmar, amid escalation of violence in the Southeast Asian nation.

UN refugee agency, UNHCR, on Friday, said more than 1,900 people have already made the journey since January – six times more than in 2020.

"Tragically, 119 people have been reported dead or missing on these journeys, this year alone," said UNHCR Spokesperson Shabia Mantoo in a statement.

Mantoo said more than a million Rohingyas now live in Bangladesh and not a single of them returned to Rakhine State, adding conditions in the refugee camps weren't safe and conducive yet.

Meanwhile, the situation in Myanmar has deteriorated since the military takeover in February last year and more so recently in Rakhine State where the Arakan Army and Myanmar military are fighting each other.

In an appeal for help from governments in the region, UNHCR said that the most recent arrivals included over 200 people in North Aceh, Indonesia, where the authorities allowed them to disembark and provided shelter.

UNHCR has also received unverified reports of more boats with desperate individuals, adrift at sea. With increasing levels of desperation and vulnerability forcing more refugees to make these deadly journeys, UNHCR and humanitarian partners have emphasised on increased regional and international cooperation to save lives and share responsibility.

UN refugee agency, UNHCR, on Friday, said more than 1,900 people have already made the journey since January – six times more than in 2020.

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'BNP rally must be at Suhrawardy Udyan' Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said it is the DMP commissioner's responsibility to make Dhaka liveable for the two crore residents, as BNP has threatened to bring down the government by making the city come to a standstill on December 10.

BNP said many people would gather to support it, and that's why the police commissioner has allocated Suhrawardy Udyan for its rally, Kamal said while addressing reporters after the inauguration of the newly-built Shaistaganj police station building in Habiganj.

"If BNP people gather in front of the party office in Nayapaltan, defying the police commissioner ban, then the commissioner will take necessary action," he said.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun yesterday said they believe that BNP will hold the programme at the venue for which the authorities have given permission.

He came up with the remark while replying to a

ASADUZZAMAN KHAN
KAMAL, home minister

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The empty spaces underneath Mayor Hanif Flyover seems to be up for grabs for anyone to use. Before, there used to be barricades preventing people from using this space. But now, horses are kept there and the local businessmen have turned the space into a makeshift stable. This photo was taken in Gulistan area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Dengue death toll **254**

Total number of patients **58,209**

1,710 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **56,245**

351 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 4

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION